

Black History Month

During the last two weeks, the staff has been having conversations about the importance of celebrating Black History Month and how to integrate this celebration mindfully into our curriculum. We have discussed sensitive parts of our pasts and come face to face with the racist narrative that many of us were taught in school. This “official American history” that we were taught misrepresented Black people, and their influence in the construction of this country. We participated in a retrospective exercise, where we remembered our childhood and saw how the Black history that many of us were taught, including slavery and the Civil Rights movement, was very white-washed, and sometimes even absent.

It is impossible to teach every single account of the history of a country, but today it is our responsibility to talk about the parts of history that have been marginalized, as well as the reasons behind the marginalization. I believe that a conscious, diverse, and anti-racist curriculum is one that is constructed collectively over the ashes of our life experiences and reflections. We are working on this every day at Hilltop. But this work has its own challenges. For many of us, it has made us feel vulnerable and uncomfortable. Before, this discomfort was often avoided with silence, but today we are confronting these truths with questions and research in order to continue learning and growing.

In order to continue doing this work and to grow stronger as an anti-racist community, I would like to share some of the articles, videos, and podcasts

that have been part of our learning. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out.

Books:

- [*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- [*White Fragility*](#) by Robin Diangelo

Articles:

- [The History Behind Black History Month](#)
- [Teaching Black History in Culturally Responsive Ways](#)
- [Why We Need Black History Month](#)

Videos and Podcasts:

- [Elizabeth Acevedo: Hair](#)
- [Coming Together: Standing up to Racism Town Hall](#)
- [A History Book That Isn't: Finding A Way To Teach Racism To A New Generation](#)

Yupaichani / Gracias / Thank you,

Marco Yunga Tacuri